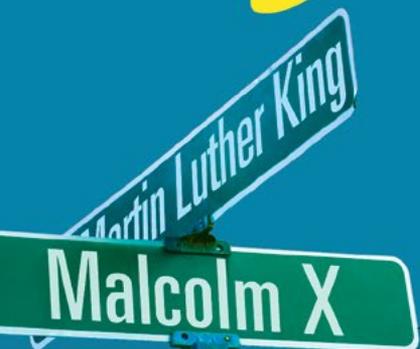


A SAN DIEGO TRADITION FOR 75 YEARS

A Rhapsodic Blues Tragedy

Harlem Duet

By Djanet Sears
Directed by Kandace Crystal



CPH
CORONADO
PLAYHOUSE

March 19 - April 18

Streaming on-demand

1835 Strand Way, Coronado • (619) 435-4856 • www.CoronadoPlayhouse.org

Harlem Duet

By Djanet Sears

Harlem Duet premiered on April 24, 1997, as a Nightwood Theatre production, at the Tarragon Extra Space, Toronto, Canada

The Cast:

Billie	Danielle Bunch
Othello	Malachi Beasley
Magi	Carla BaNu Dejesus
Amah	Heather Barton Tjalma
Canada	Ahmed Kenyatta Dents
Mona	Andrea Acuna

The Time and Place:

Late Summer, Harlem:
 1928, a tiny dressing room
 1997, a Brownstone apartment
 1860, a blacksmith's forge

Running Time:

Approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes

PLEASE NOTE: Harlem Duet contains adult language and themes.

Acknowledgements

City of Coronado
 Coronado Recreation Services and
 Community Center Staff
 The Morcos Family Fund
 Trinity Theatre Company
 Mylene Macias

Special thanks to our friends at OnStage
 Playhouse: James Darvis, Kelsie Morris
 and MaeAnn Ross
 Special thanks to parents, spouses,
 significant others, family and friends
 whose love and support helped make
 this production possible.

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Announcement

THE VIDEOTAPING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS A VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW AND ACTIONABLE FEDERAL OFFENSE

Production Team and Theatre Staff

Director.....	Kandace Crystal
Producer.....	Anthony Zelig
Production Stage Manager.....	Beonica Bullard
Dramaturg.....	Kimberly King
Intimacy Choreographer.....	Natalie Griffith Robichaux
Set Designer.....	Dennis Floyd
Costume Designer.....	Beonica Bullard
Lighting Designer & Operator.....	Kevin "Blax" Burroughs
Props Designer.....	Kathy Parks
Resident Sound Designer & Original Music Composition.....	Marc Akiyama
Film Production.....	Marc Akiyama, Landon Akiyama
Master Carpenter.....	Stan Soth
Set Construction.....	Stan Soth, Dale Goodman, Karl Bunker, Bob Brun
Set Painting.....	Duane McGregor
Marketing.....	Barron Henzel, Anthony Zelig
Graphic Design.....	Barron Henzel
Production Photography.....	Ken Jacques
Poster Distribution.....	Company
Box Office.....	Pam Everett, Amanda Everett
Production Manager.....	Anthony Zelig

Next at Coronado Playhouse

One relationship. Infinite possibilities.

CONSTELLATIONS

BY NICK PAYNE

DIRECTED BY SAMUEL YOUNG



Streaming on-demand

May 12 - May 30

A Note from the Playhouse - Member Supported Theatre

Welcome to the second show of this, our 75th anniversary season! It's been quite a year since we shut down last March. While the world has kept revolving, many things have changed in so many ways. And we, in turn, have adapted in ways big and small. Throughout 2020, the Board was determined to bring you a full season of shows for 2021 and to do so meant adapting to new ways to deliver. While nothing will ever replace sitting in a theatre for a live performance, bringing you this streamed performance is the closest we can get to sharing theatrical art. But this change is probably the least remarkable aspect of this production.

Back in May, following the death of George Floyd and the critical resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, we at the Playhouse were in the midst of planning this season and realized we had an opportunity to shift our approach. We have always depended on directors approaching us with submissions of shows they would like to direct. Suddenly, that did not seem good enough, given the struggle happening out in the world. After all, theatre should do more than just entertain. According to CPH's mission, theatre should "reflect and celebrate our world by cultivating a diverse and representative community." Consideration of only those directors and shows that came to us was not creating that diversity. While CPH has represented several marginalized communities over the years - we have had a strong female presence both on our Board, with our directors and in our shows, and the same can be said about our LGBTQ representation - we have not made an effort to ensure we are including BIPOC voices and stories. With that in mind, I reached out to Kandace Crystal, whose direction of Trinity Theatre's *Clybourne Park* had impressed and stayed with me. Kandace has been heavily involved in the theatre community in the last year. One of her signature achievements has been the creation and production of the Theatre Alliance Roundtable series, with a major focus on diversity and inclusion. It was clear

that inviting Kandace to submit something to direct would only work if it was a show that she selected; something she loved; a story that she felt passionate about telling. And thus, *Harlem Duet* came to Coronado Playhouse. The Board immediately read the script and was quick to schedule the show as part of this season. Yes, there was discussion of whether this story would appeal to all of our regular patrons. But there was no hesitation. Again, pulling from our mission statement, "CPH strives to represent artists of all backgrounds and life journeys, and believes that this philosophy will enhance and enlighten the theatre experience for everyone."

Kandace brings a strong voice and perspective to CPH. For the first time in our history, we are producing a show by a Black author, directed by a Black director, with a Black cast and a mostly BIPOC production team. Was 75 years too long for this to happen? Absolutely. We cannot change the past. But we can address it in the decisions we make in the present. This production is only the start of what we hope will be an expanded experience for everyone at Coronado Playhouse, from the Board, where last summer we elected two more women of color to join us at the table, to the staff and to our teams of artists and patrons, both new and old.

As you read this, the Board is planning our 2022 season and we hope to have exciting news to announce soon that will further our mission of diverse representation and bridge-building to all communities in San Diego. At Coronado Playhouse, we will continue to listen, to learn and to grow. And we hope you will continue this journey with us, in the true spirit of community. And now, enjoy the show!

Anthony Zelig
Vice-President
Board of Directors



Kandace Crystal, Director

To date, *Othello* is one of Shakespeare's most admired works. But who is Othello through the eyes of a woman who looks like me? Djanet Sears, an Afro-Canadian playwright, examines a question I have often wondered

myself. Social justice has been close to my heart for some time now and the reckoning in the theatre industry has truly opened my eyes to taking an active role in creating change. Change lands on the shoulders of those in places of privilege. However, BIPOC theatre makers cannot fear dismantling systemic racism in our industry. Removing Shakespeare's dated lens radically changes the story's interpretation. We have the responsibility to tell our story without any concern of its palatability to audiences unfamiliar with our experience, as theatre is for all.

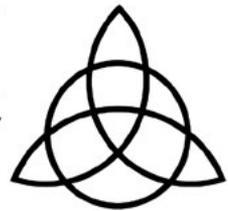
Harlem Duet is a complex exploration of Black Love, White acceptance, and a deep dive into issues that even twenty years later are still relevant. My own understanding of these issues is vastly different now versus when I was first introduced to the show in 2005. I can only hope that our patrons can appreciate it for all its nuances and vulnerability.

This is OUR show! To my cast, thank you a million times over for your hard work and dedication to this project. Thank you for bringing your whole authentic selves to every rehearsal. For making me laugh, cry and reflect on the intricacies of why we do this work. To my designers and film crew, none of this would be possible without you. Thank you for sharing your individual gifts through *Harlem Duet*. To Anthony and Coronado Playhouse, thank you for the opportunity to tell this story--my way. For amplifying my voice, the playwright's work and a talented all Black cast.

To my family for always believing in me. I would be nothing without your support.

Kandace Crystal
Director

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DANIELLE BUNCH (Billie) is an actor and director from Houston, Texas, new to San Diego. Her favorite credits include *No Exit* and *Becky Shaw* with Firecracker Productions, *Die Walküre* with Houston

Grand Opera and *Feathers and Teeth* for Mildred's Umbrella Theatre Company. In San Diego she has performed with New Match Collective and is represented by Shamon Freitas Talent Agency. Danielle has a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Houston and is a graduate student studying Arts Administration and Museum Leadership through Drexel University. She is an arts educator and has recently launched a nonprofit primarily aimed at helping students of color pursue artistic disciplines in college and beyond called Fine Arts Forward.



MALACHI BEASLEY (Othello) began his acting career here in Spring Valley, California. After graduating from Cal State Long Beach in 2019, he was accepted into Yale where he is currently pursuing his Masters degree. While at CLSUB, Cal Rep credits included Haemon (*Antigone X*) and Cash (*The Funfair*). Other credits include Hollywood Fringe Festival (*The Human[oid] Experience*). Before COVID-19, he was working on Yale Rep's *A Raisin in the Sun* with director Carl Coffield. Now, back in his hometown, he is excited to be working on Coronado Playhouse's production of *Harlem Duet*. He will be graduating from The Yale School of Drama in 2023.



CARLA BANU DEJESUS (Magi) marks her first performance with CPH

with *Harlem Duet*. Acting credits include: *What Would You Do Adventures* (The Red Wolves Ensemble), *Day of Absence* (Common Ground Theater), *The des Troyers* (Southwestern College), *Pruning Ivy* (Common Ground Theater), *Piece of My Heart* (American History Theater), Fefu & Friends and W.O.W. Festival 2019 (O.P.A). Directorial credits include: *Undertow/A Black Woman Speaks* (New Match Collective/Tanika Baptiste Productions) and *For Colored Girls...* (La Jolla Community Theater & TBP). Carla has also been Creative Producer for Hear Her Roar 2020 (Oracle Performing Arts & TBP) and choreographer in Big Kitchen (San Diego Fringe 2017).



HEATHER BARTON TJALMA (Amah) feels lucky to help tell this beautiful heart-wrenching story. During these turbulent times she knows how blessed she is to have the opportunity to create with such sweet,

talented people. Additional appearances at CPH include *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Old Man and the Old Moon* and several cabarets. Coming soon you can see her in a streaming of *Lit*, an original Blindspot Collective theatre production. She would like to send a special thank you to everyone watching - and encourages you to keep supporting theatre!



AHMED KENYATTA DENTS (Canada) is a 20-year San Diego Performing Arts and Media veteran serving in roles as radio host, live event host, voiceover artist, IT Manager, Sr. Patron Services Manager and

Systems Administrator. He is currently the *Development and Artistic Associate* at San Diego Repertory Theatre, co-host of the bi-weekly salon "*We Are Listening*", host of the "*Ahmed's Voice*" podcast and most recently

played the role of “Mister” in Common Ground Theatre’s *This Is A Low* (2021).

ANDREA ACUNA (Mona) is happy to be back on the Coronado Playhouse stage after last appearing as Mariane in the 2015 production of *Tartuffe*. Other recent credits include Claudia Faith Draper in *Nuts*

(PowPAC/Aubrey Award Winner), Jean in *Dead Man’s Cell Phone* (Patio Playhouse) and Antony in *Antony & Cleopatra* (New Match Collective). Andrea would like to thank Kandace Crystal for the incredible opportunity to perform again during these unprecedented times as well as the cast and crew for their work and talent.

Creative Team Bios

KANDACE CRYSTAL (Director) (she/her) is an Actor, Director, Producer, & Florida State alum from Miami, FL. Her directorial credits include: *The Mountaintop* (AHT/TRTC/TYPA), *Donna Orbits the Moon* (Scripps Ranch Theatre) and *Clybourne Park* (Trinity Theatre Company). As Artistic Director of American History Theatre and Associate Artistic Director of Trinity Theatre Company, Kandace hopes to continue using her art to tell the stories of oppressed and marginalized communities. Feel free to keep up with her journey on social media, @KandaceCrystal on all platforms.

ANTHONY ZELIG (Producer/CPH Production Manager) appeared at the Playhouse as Miss Trunchbull in last year’s sole production, *Matilda*. Prior to that, he produced six 2019 CPH productions and did both lighting and sound design for several, earning an Aubrey Award for co-designing lights for *Mamma Mia!* Anthony is also an Ambassador and Administrator for San Diego’s new Theatre Alliance. He is excited to be a part of this incredible company of cast, crew and creatives. A very special thank you to Kandace for bringing this important show to CPH so that we can bring it to you.

BEONICA BULLARD (Stage Manager & Costume Designer) feels blessed to be working with Coronado Playhouse for the first time. Past shows include *Quality of Life* (Intrepid Shakespeare Company), *Black Pearl Sings* (San Diego Rep), *The Niceties* (Moxie) and *Uplifting Black Voice* (Common Ground). She has a Bachelor of Arts in Theater with an emphasis in Stage Management from SDSU. Previously she had a fellowship at San Diego Repertory Theater and is currently the Resident Stage Manager at JCompany Youth Theater. She was awarded a Certificate of Recognition in Artistic Achievement from the

California Legislature Assembly.

DENNIS FLOYD (Set Designer) is excited to share his first executed design for Coronado Playhouse - CPH fans almost got to see his set for *Richard III* last summer, but Covid. He is happy to be creating again and working with Kandace and the fantastic *Harlem Duet* team and cast. Dennis’s most recent designs include *God of Carnage* (Lamplighters) and *Treasure Island* (Pickwick Players). He’s also grateful for the support of his long-suffering wife - Thanks Pam! Thanks also to Evelyn & Lucas for their help with the design and modeling of this set. “*Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so; and being done, thus Wall away doth go.*”

KEVIN “BLAX” BURROUGHS (Lighting Designer) is grateful to be back on a light board designing his 2nd play in his career after exclusively designing musicals. He was last seen at Coronado Playhouse making his onstage debut as Flick in *Violet in Concert* (2017). Other lighting design credits elsewhere include shows such as *The Addams Family*, *Legally Blonde*, *All Shook Up*, *Matilda*, *Wizard of Oz*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Next To Normal*, *The Little Mermaid* and his favorite, *Carrie*. He is a performer, director, choreographer & Co-Founder/Theatre Associate of Teatro San Diego. Instagram: @kevinblaxburroughs @teatrosandiego

KATHY PARKS (Props Designer) is happy to be back working with Coronado Playhouse after her 2019 “retirement” as resident stage manager. She has worked on numerous productions with CPH, Trinity Theatre Company, OB Playhouse and Pickwick Players. She is excited to be working with this fabulous team and hopes this experience helps keep theatre thriving until such time that we can all be together again in person.

MARC AKIYAMA (Resident Sound Designer, Film Production) is a composer for film and theatre, and the co-founder of Akiyama Music, a film scoring and production studio. Marc is the Resident Sound Designer for Trinity Theatre Company and Coronado Playhouse. He scores a wide array of films from animation to original musicals, including *Brush* with Disney Animator, Garrett Lewis, while spanning multiple genres from jazz to orchestral. Marc co-hosts *The Song to Screen Podcast*, which explores storytelling techniques of film and theatre music. He and his brother produce creative content for their studio including original films and tutorial videos. Visit AkiyamaMusic.com for more.

KIMBERLY KING (Dramaturg) has an M.A. in Theatre Arts and is very pleased to once again be working with Coronado Playhouse on such a worthy work. A native San Diegan, Ms. King is a public school teacher of 25 years, mother of 3 local artists, arts advocate and Co-founder of Teenage Youth Performing Arts Theatre Company. "Dramaturgy, as a deep dive into the world of a play, is the ultimate theatre nerd-out and it gives me so much life - I love it." typateam@typatheatrecompany.org

LANDON AKIYAMA (Film Production) is a born and raised California-based photographer and videographer. He's

photographed everything from portraits, couples and weddings to corporate events and concerts. When he isn't behind the camera, Landon is a lyricist, composer and guitarist. He co-founded Akiyama Music, a film scoring studio whose recent work on *Brush* has been nominated for several film festival awards around the country. Landon also works as the Development Coordinator at La Jolla Music Society.

NATALIE GRIFFITH ROBICHAUX (Intimacy Choreographer) has performed in theaters across the country including Lincoln Center Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Indiana Repertory, Shakespeare Santa Cruz and La Jolla Playhouse. Her study at the Drama Therapy Institute of LA and with Michael Chekhov Association in the psycho-physical approach to acting has deeply influenced her work as an artist and instructor. Natalie's areas of study include acting, movement for the actor, expansion of creative abilities through the body, intimacy choreography and the creation of original theatre work. She recently left her academic appointment as a professor of Acting at UCSD to pursue professional projects fulltime and enjoys directing, acting and choreographing intimacy for theatres. She has choreographed intimacy locally for shows at UCSD, Cygnet and Diversionary. BFA Performance, Univ. of Evansville. MFA Acting, UCSD.

Rachel's Women's Center partners with Coronado Playhouse during the run of *Harlem Duet*

For this production, Coronado Playhouse is partnering with **Rachel's Women's Center**.

Rachel's Women's Center provides a safe, supportive, sober environment and opportunities for women with few or no resources to gather, begin, and continue self-help efforts.

Please visit their [website](http://ccdsd.org/homeless-womens-services/) at ccdsd.org/homeless-womens-services/ to see how to volunteer or donate to this important cause supporting homeless and struggling women, providing them with opportunities to effect changes in their lives.

Community Theatre is made by, with, and for the community in which it is performed. Coronado Playhouse is committed to pursuing community theatre in the truest sense of the words by giving back to the people of San Diego County and Coronado and using our public platform to help those in need.



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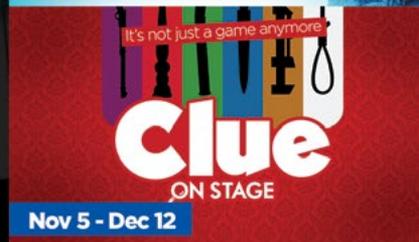
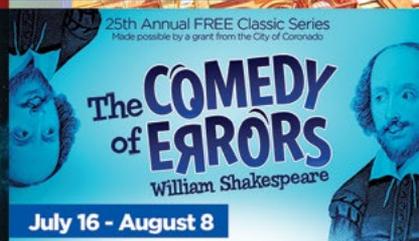
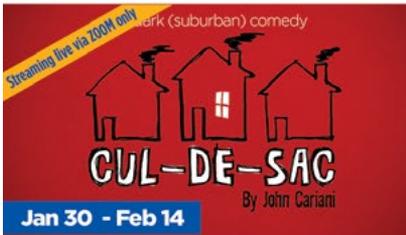
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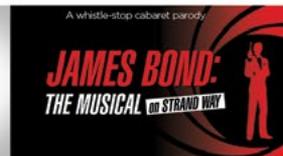
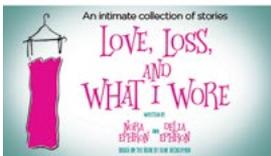
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